



A Word from Pastor Schielke

In the Old Testament lesson for Ash Wednesday, the prophet Joel records these words of the Lord, “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Joel 2:12-13).

Lent is a time for “returning to the Lord” in repentance and faith. In the Old Testament repentant people would put on sackcloth and wear ashes as a sign of their repentance. Sackcloth, made from goats hair, would have made for very uncomfortable clothing. Ashes symbolize desolation and ruin. This was an outward sign that they realized the state of their inner selves. Such a symbol made one’s repentant heart visible and demonstrated the sincerity of

one’s repentance. It was not the act of putting on sackcloth and ashes itself that moved God to intervene. But the action demonstrated humility. God’s forgiveness in response to repentance is celebrated by David’s words in Psalm 30 “You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.” Thus, we put ashes on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent in recognition that we, too, must repent. In our sinfulness we are worthy of only God’s wrath. We come before Him with nothing to offer but in repentance plead for His forgiveness.

“Outward” repentance is not what God is after with us. Thus, Joel writes, “Rend your hearts and not your garments.” The tearing of one’s garments was also a sign of repentance. But it is your heart God is after. He seeks to rip your evil heart apart

and to create in you a new, clean heart, and to renew a right spirit within you, as we sing in the offertory. As God says through the prophet Ezekiel, “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

As we return to the Lord in repentance during this Lenten season we can be confident of God’s forgiveness. “For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” And that love is fully demonstrated by and revealed to us in the perfect life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Thanks be to God!



Season of Lent

Lenten Wednesdays - During the Lenten season, we focus on our sins and repent of them as we look towards Jesus’ trial, punishment, and death for our sins as the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us.

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57

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The Augsburg Confession - Below are the fifth and sixth articles of the Augsburg Confession. These are what we believe and confess as a Lutheran congregation.

Article V - Of the Ministry

¹ That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments,

² the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear

³ the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake.

⁴ They condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that the Holy Ghost comes to men without the external Word, through their own preparations and works.

Article VI - Of New Obedience

¹ Also they teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruits, and that it is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God's will, but that we should not rely on those works to merit justification

² before God. For remission of sins and justification is apprehended by faith, as also the voice of Christ attests: When ye shall have done all these things, say: We are unprofitable servants. Luke 17:10. The same is also taught by

³ the Fathers. For Ambrose says: It is ordained of God that he who believes in Christ is saved, freely receiving remission of sins, without works, by faith alone.

VIC Happenings

Lenten Services - We are having Lenten Services on Wednesdays. Prior to those services, the youth are providing dinner beginning at 6 p.m.

Palm Sunday - Palm Sunday is March 28. This is the day our Lord Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a colt.

Maunder Thursday / Good Friday Services - These services are April 1 and 2, respectively, and begin at 7 p.m. These services are one service with Easter and will not end with a benediction until Easter. Good Friday's service is a Tenebrae service, a service of darkness. These services cover Christ's trials and tribulations while being led to the cross to be crucified up to His resurrection. **Victory in Christ Lutheran Church**
March 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	3 Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	8	9 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	10 Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	15	16 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	17 Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m.	18	19	20 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
21 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	22	23 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	24 Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m.	25	26	27 Spring Cleaning 8 a.m.
28 Palm Sunday Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Council Meeting	29	30 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	31	1 Maudy Thursday Service 7 p.m.	2 Good Friday Service 7 p.m.	3 Prayer Vigil

Answers to February's Bible Questions:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The angel of the Lord, Num. 22:23 2. 12 men, Num. 13 3. Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, Lev. 10 4. 50 years old, Num. 8:25 5. Eleazar, Num. 20:26 6. Nadab and Abihu, Lev. 10 7. To heal the people bitten by snakes, Num. 21:8 8. Every 7 years and every 50 years, Lev. 25 9. Edrei, Deut. 3:1 10. The Sabbath, The Passover, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, The Feast of Firstfruits, The Feast of Weeks, The Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Booths, Lev. 23 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Sihon, lived in Heshbon, Num. 21:26 12. Zelophedad, Num. 27 13. Swallowed up by the earth, rebelling against Aaron as Chief Priest, Num. 16 14. She became leprous. Num. 12:10 15. 2 lived and 10 died, for bringing a bad report about the land, Num. 14:37-38 16. 7 days and 14 days, Lev. 12 17. Eat nothing made from grapes, shall not cut their hair, and cannot go near a dead body. Num. 6 18. Canaan, Num. 33:50-53 |
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1. What is Joshua's other name?
2. What city did Naomi and Ruth go to after the famine?
3. Who was a left-handed judge and who did he kill?
4. What did Saul do to lose God's Spirit?
5. How many days did it take Israel to defeat Jericho?
6. What tribe of Israel committed a great sin and was almost wiped out?
7. What rash vow did Jephthah make, and who was it?
8. How was Samson to be raised?
9. Who was David's best friend?
10. Who married Ruth?
11. Name Eli's sons and were they good or evil?
12. Where was Saul anointed king?
13. Who deceived the Israelites by making them believe they came from a far away land?
14. Who defeated the Midianites?
15. Where is Moses buried?
16. What is Samuel's father's name?
17. Who was Ruth's great-grandson?
18. How old was Joshua when he died?
19. Who was Joab?
20. What did the Lord do when He heeded the voice of a man?
21. On what mount did Saul die?
22. Name the judge who killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad?

For 2021, I would like to challenge every member of this congregation to read through the Bible in one year. The Bible readings for March and part of April are listed below, and above are questions over the readings to see how well you are reading. List the chapter and verse with your answers.

March 1: Deuteronomy 5-7	March 15: Joshua 16-18	March 29: 1 Sam. 9-12
March 2: Deuteronomy 8-10	March 16: Joshua 19-21	March 30: 1 Sam. 13-14
March 3: Deuteronomy 11-13	March 17: Joshua 22-24	March 31: 1 Sam. 15-17
March 4: Deuteronomy 14-16	March 18: Judges 1-2	April 1: 1 Sam. 18-20
March 5: Deuteronomy 17-20	March 19: Judges 3-5	April 2: 1 Sam. 21-24
March 6: Deuteronomy 21-23	March 20: Judges 6-7	April 3: 1 Sam. 25-27
March 7: Deuteronomy 24-27	March 21: Judges 8-9	April 4: 1 Sam. 28-31
March 8: Deuteronomy 28-29	March 22: Judges 10-12	April 5: 2 Sam. 1-3
March 9: Deuteronomy 30-31	March 23: Judges 13-15	April 6: 2 Sam. 4-7
March 10: Deuteronomy 32-34	March 24: Judges 16-18	April 7: 2 Sam. 8-12
March 11: Joshua 1-4	March 25: Judges 19-21	April 8: 2 Sam. 13-15
March 12: Joshua 5-8	March 26: Ruth	April 9: 2 Sam. 16-18
March 13: Joshua 9-11	March 27: 1 Sam. 1-3	April 10: 2 Sam. 19-21
March 14: Joshua 12-15	March 28: 1 Sam. 4-8	April 11: 2 Sam. 22-24

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